

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION

JAMES RAVENELL,
Plaintiff,

v.

DALLAS COUNTY JAIL FACILITY,
Defendant.

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No. 3:19-cv-01518-C (BT)

**FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATION
OF THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

Before the Court is Plaintiff's *pro se* civil rights case. For the following reasons, the Court should dismiss Plaintiff's case under Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b).

I.

Plaintiff, an inmate in the Dallas County jail, and others filed a putative class action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, alleging the Dallas County jail is violating their rights by segregating inmates into housing units based on race. The Court determined Plaintiff and the other inmates should not be allowed to proceed as a class and ordered that the case be severed into individual actions to allow each inmate to represent himself. The Court further ordered each individual plaintiff to pay a filing fee of \$400.00 or file a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*. Plaintiff did not pay the filing fee; nor did he file a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*. On June 25, 2019, the Court sent Plaintiff a notice of deficiency reminding him to pay the filing fee or a file motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*. The Court informed

Plaintiff that failure to cure the deficiency within 30 days would result in a recommendation that his complaint be dismissed. More than 30 days have passed, and Plaintiff still has not paid the filing fee or filed a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*.

II.

Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure allows a court to dismiss an action *sua sponte* for failure to prosecute or for failure to comply with the federal rules or any court order. *Larson v. Scott*, 157 F.3d 1030, 1031 (5th Cir. 1998). “This authority [under Rule 41(b)] flows from the court’s inherent power to control its docket and prevent undue delays in the disposition of pending cases.” *Boudwin v. Graystone Ins. Co., Ltd.*, 756 F.2d 399, 401 (5th Cir. 1985) (citing *Link v. Wabash, R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626 (1962)). The Court has issued a deficiency notice to Plaintiff advising him that he must pay the filing fee or file a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*. However, Plaintiff has failed to respond to the Court’s order. This litigation cannot proceed until Plaintiff complies with the Court’s order and either pays the filing fee or files a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*. Accordingly, the complaint should be dismissed for want of prosecution under Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b).

III.

Plaintiff’s complaint should be dismissed without prejudice for want of prosecution under Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b).

Signed August 21, 2019.



REBECCA RUTHERFORD
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE AND
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL/OBJECT**

A copy of this report and recommendation shall be served on all parties in the manner provided by law. Any party who objects to any part of this report and recommendation must file specific written objections within 14 days after being served with a copy. See 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); FED. R. CIV. P. 72(b). In order to be specific, an objection must identify the specific finding or recommendation to which objection is made, state the basis for the objection, and specify the place in the magistrate judge's report and recommendation where the disputed determination is found. An objection that merely incorporates by reference or refers to the briefing before the magistrate judge is not specific. Failure to file specific written objections will bar the aggrieved party from appealing the factual findings and legal conclusions of the magistrate judge that are accepted or adopted by the district court, except upon grounds of plain error. See *Douglass v. United Services Automobile Ass'n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1417 (5th Cir. 1996).